

Appropriate Instructional Assignments for Elementary Certified Teachers

Michigan elementary certificated teachers are prepared to teach all core content areas in **self-contained classrooms**.

The teacher generalist, who is authorized to teach in a **self-contained classroom**, is not prepared to teach and should not be assigned to teach music, visual arts, physical education, health, Title I reading, technology, or library media outside of the self-contained classroom context.

The *Administrative Rules Governing the Certification of Michigan Teachers* provides the following definitions that must be used when making decisions regarding teaching assignments.

R 390.1101 Definitions.

Rule 1. As used in this code:

- (a) "Certificate endorsement" means subject or subjects that a teacher is authorized to teach at specific grade levels based on completion of appropriate coursework and passage of the appropriate state teacher subject area examination.
- (b) "Departmentalized classroom" means a classroom in which instruction in a specific subject area is provided for a defined period of time.
- (c) "Early childhood certificate endorsement" means a specialization to teach in any school program preceding and including grade 3.
- (d) "Elementary certificate" means an authorization to teach all subjects, kindergarten to and including grade 5, and grade 6 to and including grade 8 in a self-contained classroom and may include one or more subject area endorsements or authorizations to teach in grade 6 to and including grade 8 in departmentalized classrooms.
- (r) "Self-contained classroom" means a classroom in which 1 teacher provides instruction to the same pupils for the majority of the pupil's instructional day.

The following table provides examples of appropriate teaching assignments for elementary certified teachers. For some assignments certificate endorsements are required.

Appropriate Assignment for Elementary Certificated Teacher	Required Certification and Endorsement
Preschool, Michigan School Readiness Program, Early Kindergarten, Transition Kindergarten, Young Fours, as part of the school district's total program.	Elementary Certificate and Early Childhood Education endorsement (ZA)
Developmental reading groups <u>across</u> grade levels K-5.	Elementary Certificate Since Michigan requires reading courses defined by established standards all elementary certified teachers have an appropriate level of knowledge and preparation for this assignment.
Kindergarten through eighth grade self-contained classroom.	Elementary Certificate
K-5 grade level content departmentalized classes for grade mathematics, science, social studies, (e.g., 4 th grade science.)	Elementary Certificate It is recommended that either an endorsement, content specific courses equivalent to a major or minor, or professional development for advanced knowledge be evident for teachers selected to teach departmentalized classes.
K-5 grade level departmentalized classes for physical education, music, visual arts, health, Title I reading, world languages, technology, or library media.	Elementary Certificate It is highly recommended that either an endorsement, content specific courses equivalent to a major or minor, or professional development for advanced knowledge be evident for teachers selected to teach these classes.